REMARKS

Subject to the Examiner's entry of the amendments herein, claims 1-40 are pending in the application. By this Amendment Applicant has amended claims 1, 7, 19, 24 and 33, and has added new dependent claims 38-40.

Claim Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. §102

In the above Final Office Action the Examiner has rejected claims 1-2, 4, 7-8, 11, 13, 15, 19-26, 28-35 and 37 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Wagner (U.S. Pub. No. 20030233296) in view of Touma et al. (U.S. 6,160,549).

In the interests of brevity and clarity of presentation, Applicant will not repeat the arguments made in the Remarks accompanying the Request for Continued Examination filed April 9, 2007 and in the Response filed July 3, 2007. Rather, Applicant hereby incorporates such Remarks by reference herein, and further addresses the above outstanding rejection on the basis of the arguments and claim amendments hereinafter described.

As has been previously observed by Applicant, the Wagner system does not appear to permit the affirmative selection of a particular data source during the design of a report file used for report generation. Moreover, Wagner also does not appear to contemplate that a plurality of data sources are available to be associated with components of such a report file, and does not enable users to select from among such plural sources as presently claimed. This necessarily follows from the configuration of the Wagner system; specifically, the "information sources" 4-1, 4-2, etc. depicted in FIGS. 1-2 are incapable of being selected during any process of report design or generation that may be effected through such system. That is, although the computer 1 of the Wagner system appears to have visibility into the contents of database 3a, the computer 1 of Wagner is incapable of discerning which information sources 4 may provide information to the database 3a and is similarly unable to "select" or otherwise associate any of the information sources 4 with any aspect of a report.

In order to emphasize this apparent distinction between the system of the present invention and the Wagner system, independent claims 1, 7, 19, 24 and 33 were previously amended to recite that the claimed data sources be "presented for selection via a user interface". It was pointed out that since in the Wagner system the information sources 4 do not appear to be

"visible" to the computer 1, it is also clearly the case that such data sources may not be "presented for selection" via a user interface or otherwise.

Claim 29 was similarly amended to indicated that "user-specified" associations exist between various data sources and report groups. It was again noted that the Wagner system does not permit specification by a user of an association between a data source and any aspect of a report, since the data sources in the Wagener system are not accessible or otherwise visible to user computer 1.

In response to these amendments the Examiner has changed the grounds of rejection to those set forth in the above-referenced Final Office Action. Specifically, while the Examiner has acknowledged that Wagner fails to specifically disclose a graphical user interface for selecting the source data from a plurality of sources, the Examiner has stated that Touma, in claim 1, discloses a GUI for selecting the source data from a plurality of sources. Claim 1 of Touma is set forth below:

> 1. A computer implemented method of defining a data report, said method comprising the steps of:
> defining, using a definition manager having a graphical user interface (GUI), a data model of said data report consisting of data model objects, said data model graphically representing data items selected from a database to be included in said data report, wherein said data model is defined by joining a plurality of queries, said data model includes a query data object used to select a predefined query or generate a new query; and
> defining, using said definition manager, a layout model of said report consisting of layout model objects, said layout model graphically representing a physical layout format of said report.

Applicant respectfully disagrees that claim 1 of Touma describes a GUI for selecting the source data from a plurality of sources. Applicant observes that claim 1 of Touma describes "a definition manager having a graphical user interface (GUI)" that is used to define "a data model of said data report consisting of data model objects, said data model graphically representing data items selected from a database to be included in said data report" (emphasis added). That is, Touma's GUI is described as being used to display "data items" that have been previously selected from the database. This does not in any way describe or suggest the presently claimed selection of a data source from among a plurality of available data sources presented for

selection via a user interface. That is, claim 1 of Touma simply does not address the issue of how data sources are actually selected, it merely contemplates that once a data item has been selected it may be graphically represented as part of a data model. This clearly has nothing whatsoever to do with the unrelated process of employing a user interface to facilitate the selection of a data source from among multiple available data sources.

Notwithstanding the clear distinctions between these aspects of the presently claimed inventions and Touma, claims 1, 7, 19, 24 and 33 have been amended to recite that each of the each of the available data sources comprises a database query. Neither Wagner nor Touma describe employing a user interface to provide a list or other representation of a plurality of available data sources comprised of database queries in order to facilitate selection of a particular data source. Accordingly, Application respectfully requests reconsideration of the outstanding rejection of claims 1-28 and 33-37.

With respect to claim 29, the Examiner states that:

"...the claim reflects the report file for performing the operations of claims 1, 8 and 24 and is rejected along the same rationale since Wagner teaches multiple data sources in Figures 1a and 1b".

Applicant respectfully draws the attention of the Examiner to the language of claim 29, which recites in part:

"a first database query identifying a first data source, ..."
"a second database query identifying a second data source, ..."

Applicant observes that even if the Examiner's premise is accepted that Wagner shows multiple data sources, the Examiner has not indicated how Wagner shows a first database query identifying a first data source and a second database query identifying a second data source. Indeed, Applicant respectfully submits that Wagner does not and cannot show this aspect of claim 29, since in the Wagner system the workstation 1 does not query any of the "multiple data sources" 4-1, 4-2, ... 4-x shown in FIGS. 1a and 1b. Rather, in the Wagner system the computer 1 has visibility only into the contents of database 3a and cannot discern which information sources 4 may provide information to the database 3a or otherwise query such information sources 4. Accordingly, the presence of the multiple information sources 4 in FIGS. 1a and 1b of Wagner does not describe or suggest the inclusion of multiple database queries in a report file as

contemplated by claim 29. Applicant thus respectfully requests reconsideration of the outstanding rejections of claims 29-32.

New claims 38-40 include recitations directed to presenting representations of a plurality of available data sources in a list via a user interface. See, e.g., FIG. 13 of the specification and accompanying discussion.

Applicant respectfully requests consideration of the remarks herein prior to further examination of the above-identified application. The undersigned would of course be available to discuss the present application with the Examiner if, in the opinion of the Examiner, such a discussion could lead to resolution of any outstanding issues.
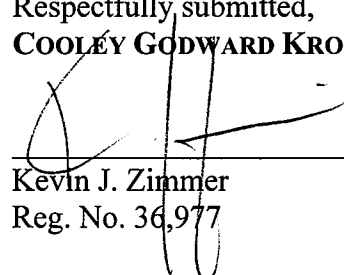
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